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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/829,721	04/10/2001	Glenn R. Smith	IBM 2 0004	8452

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Michael E. Hudzinski
FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN, MINNICH & McKEE, LLP
Seventh Floor
1100 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44110-2518

EXAMINER

VAUGHN, GREGORY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/829,721	Applicant(s) SMITH ET AL.	
	Examiner Gregory J. Vaughn	Art Unit 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,6-8,11-13,15,16,21 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,6-8,11-13,15,16,21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Application History

1. This action is responsive to the application amendment, filed on 11/26/2004.
2. Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 14 and 17-20, and added new claims 21 and 22.
3. Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21 and 22 are pending in the case, claims 2, 8 and 21 are independent claims.
4. Applicant has amended the drawings and specification in response to the objections cited by the examiner in the *Drawings* and *Specification* sections of the previous office action (dated 8/24/2004). Applicant's amendment has addressed the objections previously made, and therefore, in view of the amendment, objections to the drawings and specification are withdrawn.
5. Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 14 and 17-20, made under 35 USC 102, as being anticipated by Microsoft Word 2000, copyright 1983-1999 by Microsoft Corporation as recited in the previous office action (dated 8/24/2004) are withdrawn in view of the canceling of these claims.
6. Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15 and 16, made under 35 USC 102, as being anticipated by Microsoft Word 2000, copyright 1983-1999 by Microsoft Corporation as recited in the previous office action (dated 8/24/2004) are withdrawn as necessitated by applicant's amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

“(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.”

8. Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Word 2000, copyright 1983-1999 by Microsoft Corporation (hereinafter MS Word) in view of William B. Hayes *Using PowerBuilder 6*, published by QUE Corporation in 1997 (hereinafter PowerBuilder 6). Note: the Hayes reference was accessed on-line and the referenced pages have been provided for the applicant's use. Citations listed below use page numbers added to the top of each page by the examiner.

9. **Regarding independent claim 2**, MS Word discloses a text entry dialog box system in a typical computer system. As is well known in the art a typical computer system would include a display device, a pointing device (in the form of a mouse), memory devices, and a processor that executes an application program that would be displayed on the display. MS Word further discloses a text entry space in a dialog box that accepts free form text entry in Figures 2 and 3. MS Word discloses in Figure 4 the system memory maintaining previously entered text and displaying the previously entered text.

MS Word fails to disclose the selective display of a selection button associated with the dialog box, where the selection button is visible when one or more text entries are stored in memory. This selection button is common in the industry and usually takes the form of an arrow oriented in a downward pointing position. PowerBuilder 6 discloses dialog box controls that have intelligence built into them. PowerBuilder 6 discloses controls built into the drop down box selection button (the arrow) on page 3. PowerBuilder recites: *"Always Show Arrow: The Always Show Arrow checkbox always shows the arrow that opens the list box. If Always Show Arrow is unchecked, the arrow is shown only when the column has focus."* PowerBuilder 6 discloses conditional program execution related to visibility of the arrow.

PowerBuilder 6 further discloses the conditional program execution of the visibility of controls in relation to the volume of data in the memory of the list box on page 2. PowerBuilder 6 recites: *"Disable Scroll: If Disabled Scroll is checked, the scroll bar will always be visible but will be disabled when you can access all the items without scrolling. If this property is not checked, the scroll bar will be displayed only if necessary, based on the number of items and the height of the listbox."*

Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill, at the time the invention was made to combine the dialog box visibility controls of the PowerBuilder 6 GUI builder to create MS Window dialog boxes with smart visibility features in order to provide dialog box objects with the ability to supply information in a more intuitive manner.

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10. **Regarding dependent claim 3**, PowerBuilder 6 discloses parsing the text item previously entered into dialog box, and selectively storing the text items based upon the parsing on page 2. PowerBuilder 6 recites: *"Sorted: If Sorted is checked, the items will sorted"*

Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill, at the time the invention was made to combine the dialog box controls of the PowerBuilder 6 GUI builder to create MS Window dialog boxes with smart storing features in order to provide dialog box objects with the ability to supply information in a more intuitive manner.

11. **Regarding dependent claim 6**, MS Word discloses the selection button as a drop-down arrow, and the list as a drop-down list, both displayed in association with the dialog box in Figure 3 (shown as the arrow to the right of the text entry area and the list shown below the text entry area).

12. **Regarding dependent claim 7**, MS Word discloses a dialog box where the memory associated with the dialog box is initialized as empty each time the associated window is started in Figure 2. The Find and Replace box shown in Figure 2 is initialized as empty each time the MS Word window is launched.

13. **Regarding claims 8, 11-13, 15 and 16**, the claims are directed to a method for the system of claims 2, 3, 6 and 7, and are rejected using the same rationale.

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14. **Regarding claims 21 and 22**, the claims are directed to a graphical user interface for the system of claims 2, 3, 6 and 7, and are rejected using the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11-13, 15, 16, 21 and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the canceling of these claims. The ground(s) of rejection for new claims 45-69 is described above.

Conclusion

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Vaughn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4131. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached at (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 272-2100.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory J. Vaughn
April 8, 2005



STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER